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GOOD PROGRESS BEING MADE

Three Thousand Men Digging at the Big Ditch.

Large Vessels May Soon Go Along Side the Docks—Channel Being Deepened.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—A special to the Sun from New Orleans says: From a gentleman just arrived at Mobile from Guatemala it is learned that work on the Panama canal is again in progress. When the informant arrived at Panama from Colon he found 3,000 workers, not including the engineer force, actively engaged. The work is being done unostentatiously and without any of the spread-eagle display connected with De Lesseps' regime. A steamer was daily expected at Panama from the African coast of Moumbique with 700 negro laborers, who are capable of standing the vicissitudes of the South American climate, and this steamer is to be followed by another from the same coast with more laborers and others later on. The quality of labor is well adapted to the locality and great progress is expected when they arrive.

It could not be learned under whose auspices this work is being done. The docks on the Colon side are now in perfect condition and steamers now load and unload at them. The channel is being deepened and vessels draw 20 feet obtain entrance. The building of locks and a harbor on the Panama Pacific side is progressing rapidly and the way to them is being deepened as fast as possible. The docks are so far advanced that the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, the Southern Pacific Mail Steamship Company and the Chilean Steamship Company will soon be able to load and unload at them. This will be a great advantage over the present plan, by which vessels of deep draft are compelled to anchor 5 and a half miles in the open sea from the city of Panama.

NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.
Circulation of a Petition Asking for Delay.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 10.—Within an hour after its circulation began there were 50 names on a petition drawn up by Representative Doolittle of Washington, asking the Committee on Commerce for time for the consideration of the Nicaragua canal bill. Before the bill passed 100 members had affixed their signatures, and tonight Mr. Doolittle said: "I believe we will have no difficulty in securing the names of a considerable majority of the members of the House to this petition. The Committee on Rules will then have at least an excuse for giving us time for the measure. And I am now confident that with two days' consideration we will succeed. If ever the bill comes before the House it will pass. All the missionary work has been done. The measure has been so well discussed that the House needs little time for it." Senator Morgan assumes that the same condition exists in the Senate. He says: "If the bill is passed it will be sent to the President at once. Opposition is made in some quarters to the measure on the grounds of the expense. They do not believe a country in such a condition can undertake to guarantee bonds of \$100,000,000 for the advancement of the project during the time of construction. Chairman Cannon of the Appropriation Committee made this point today, but I do not believe he will stick to it against the bill if it comes up before Congress. In every side is encouragement for the friends of the measure. The Pacific Coast delegation is solid for it. This enables me to predict with such confidence the passage of the bill if we get time. Speaker Reed once told me he favored the bill, as it affected the entire Mississippi Valley. The Pacific Coast is now giving ahead if this is still his opinion."

The Californians are all joining in the work of securing time for the canal bill and the majority feel that the prospect for it is more than fair.

WORKING FOR BIMETALLISM.
Efforts to Repeal an International Agreement.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 11.—The Senate Republican Caucus Committee to report legislation in furtherance of an international bimetallic conference had a full meeting today, said Senator Wolcott, Chairman of the committee, "and the question was discussed at some length. The subject was chiefly considered with a view to securing the widest possible latitude to a commission and so framing legislation as that the incoming President would be at liberty to act immediately upon his inauguration without waiting for further legislative action."

"There were thousands of Republicans in the West who were in accord with so much of the Chicago platform as stood for the free coinage of silver, but who were unable to accept the other planks of the platform. There were also in the Middle States hundreds of thousands of Republicans, earnest bimetalists, who voted the Republican ticket because they believed the financial plank in the St. Louis platform to be a sacred pledge committing the party to an earnest effort to secure bimetalism."

"So far as I can observe the sentiment is practically unanimous among the Republican Senators in favor of an earnest and steadfast effort toward an international agreement. I do not anticipate any serious trouble in the way of securing such legislation as has been outlined and which will prepare the way for this effort. So far as I can learn there is no opposition on the part of either the Democrats or Populists to some such legislation as has been outlined, for I think it may be truthfully said that 99 per cent of the people of this country are bimetalists, and even those who believe that this country can alone maintain the double standard have no sort of objection to the same result being accomplished by international agreement, if that shall be possible."

OTHER LEADERS OF ABILITY.
Death of Maceo Would Not Satisfactorily Affect the Cuban Revolution.

The Cuban representatives in this country still refuse to credit the report of Gen. Maceo's death, and even if Maceo were dead, they say, there are other leaders in the insurgent army able and ready to take his place, says the Washington Star. Mr. Palma, the head of the Cuban Junta, says that the news, even if it were confirmed, would not seriously affect the progress of the struggle or cause any change in the plans. The Philadelphia Press this morning contained the following signed communication from Mr. Gonzalo de Quesada, the Charge d'Affaires of the Cuban Republic in this city:

"The Cuban Legation at Washington have received no official communication in regard to the death of Gen. Antonio Maceo, except a dispatch received by Thomas Estrada Palma from a most reliable source, reading as follows:

"Maceo passed the trocha on the 10th news of his death absolutely false. I authorize you to deny it."

"In a few days direct communications from Havana will be received. As soon as it is officially announced by the Cuban Government to its representatives that Gen. Maceo is dead, and that a Lieutenant General of the Army has been appointed, the Cuban Legation will then announce it. Until then it cannot admit the truth of the report."

"If the Cubans should be so unfortunate as to lose this gallant chief, instead of diminishing their ardor, their efforts would only be redoubled. Gen. Gomez, after the death of Marti and Borrero at the beginning of the revolution, declared that the leaders might perhaps fall, but that others would take their place, and that the revolution would continue until Cuba obtained its independence. This was at the beginning of the war, when the veterans were almost indispensable. Had Maceo or Gomez been killed then the revolution might have suffered a severe check."

"Maj. Gen. Calixto Garcia, under whom Maceo fought in the last war, and who now commands the Military Department of the East, and who, in case of the confirmation of Maceo's death, will undoubtedly succeed him as Lieutenant General, has just captured the important town of Guaimaro, after resisting its 14 forts. He also destroyed the defenses of Casaco and San Miguel, besides capturing important convoys."

"Not only is Gen. Garcia fully able to succeed Gen. Maceo, but Maj. Gen. Rius Rivera, a veteran of the last war, who, with Gen. Maceo, was a pupil of Gen. Gomez, has lately arrived in the Province of Pinar del Rio."

"As far as the effect in the island is concerned, if the death of Marti in the first days of the revolution did not cause the patriots to waver, the death today of any leader would not blind them to the strength of their position, the power of which is admitted by both the President of the United States in his message and the report of the Secretary of State."

TRIBUTES TO MACEO.
Praise for the Insurgent in the Italian Chamber.

ROME, Dec. 11.—Sig. Imbriani, the Socialist leader in the Chamber of Deputies, today, referring to the death of Antonio Maceo, said that he felt in duty bound to do homage to Maceo, who died fighting for the liberty of his country. The sentiments expressed by the speaker were warmly cheered by the Leftists. Sig. Imbriani added that to rebel was the duty of the oppressed, and it was glory to him who laid down his life for his country's liberty.

There has been some comment here over the fact that Sig. Imbriani was not called to order and that no notice was taken of the cheers from the public galleries over his eulogy of Antonio Maceo. It is understood that the President offered no remonstrance, fearing that the result of his interference might be an angry discussion.

MUST BE READY FOR WAR.
French Military Minister Talks of the Army.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—The Chamber of Deputies today passed the naval budget. Admiral Besnard, the Minister of Marine, replying to Admiral Villon, representing one of the districts of Finisterre, promised to introduce schemes for the defense of Cherbourg and Brest.

During the discussion of the army budget, M. Jaures, Socialist Deputy from the Tarn, moved that the term of military service be reduced to one year. Gen. Billot, the Minister for War, opposed the motion. He said he could not forget that the frontiers of France were open; that one year of service would reduce the strength of the army, and in the present time the army must be ready to take the field at any moment. The motion was rejected by a vote of 482 to 50.

PASSING OF PHILATELY.

Of all the fads that have absorbed the popular mind from time to time, no other has been so universal or so constant as the craze for philately, or stamp collection. Numismatics attack more violently, but for evident reasons not so generally. Men, women and children bore their friends and neighbors for unique designs, especially of foreign authority, and the postoffice officials, both at Washington and subordinate stations, have to give considerable of the time that the Government pays for to examination of requests for stamps or information concerning them from all sorts of people. While the Government officials and their clerks are forbidden to deal with stamp collectors in any other way than their sworn duty defines, they are yet pretty good judges of the feeling in the trade, and they now report that within the past year or two there has been a big slump in the business.

The following are some of the varieties of tricks practiced by unscrupulous collectors:

1. Ordinary perforated stamps with exceptionally wide margins have their perforations trimmed off, and such stamps are offered as rare unperforated stamps.
2. Ordinary perforated stamps with wide margins are re-perforated with the rare perforations. This is frequently done by an ordinary hand punch.
3. Where stamps are printed in the same color with slight changes in lettering the rare varieties are made by piecing. For instance, the 1-franc French Empire is made by taking the 50 centimes, dark carmine, with the bottom label from the 1-franc of the Republic.
4. Bicolored stamps with the center reversed, which are extremely rare, are made by cutting out the center and reversing it on another copy of the same stamp. For instance, the 1899 United States 15 cent, 24 cent and 30 cent have been made by this process.
5. By chemical means the color is changed. For instance, the 10r. blue of Brazil is changed into the 10r. black.
6. Stamps which have been canceled by pen and ink have their cancellation marks removed by chemical means, and these stamps are then sold as unused.
7. Counterfeit cancellations are frequently made on genuine stamps which have been surcharged "reprint" or "specimen."
8. Counterfeit surcharges are extremely common. They can be made on an ordinary printing press.
9. False water marks are sometimes made by printing the stamps with wendons, using a certain kind of oil, or they are made by pressing the design of the water mark on the stamp and then removing a portion of the paper by rubbing with pumice stone.
10. Very rare stamps of which a portion has disappeared have had these portions added.

THE CONSULAR CORPS AND THE LORD PROVOST.

(Glasgow Herald, Nov. 12.)
As a mark of respect the members of the Consular Corps at Glasgow met Lord Provost Richmond in the Municipal Buildings yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of congratulating him upon his elevation to the civic chair. They were received by his Lordship in the library, among those present being Mr. George Breen, Italian Consul General for Scotland; Mr. Thomas F. Agar, Argentine Consul General for Scotland; Senor Don Jose de Perinat, Spanish Consul; M. Coste, French Consul; Mr. Archibald Craig, Consul for Salvador; Mr. Malcolm Cross, Consul for Costa Rica; Mr. W. R. Crankshaw, Chilean Consul; Mr. Peter Deniston, Hawaiian Consul; Mr. Patrick S. Dunn, Consul for Guatemala; Mr. R. Hunter Dunn, Belgian Consul; Mr. Gibson, United States Vice Consul; Senor Muniz, Spanish Vice Consul; Mr. William Law, Consul for Uruguay; Mr. J. O. Lettice, German Consul; Mr. Morse, United States Consul; Mr. Hen-

ry Martini, Danish Consul; Mr. A. R. Mees, Russian Vice Consul; Mr. John Mellich, Dominican Vice Consul; Mr. James Mutter, Portuguese Consul; Mr. John C. Rogers, Chilean Vice Consul; Mr. William Taylor, Dominican Consul; and Mr. W. J. Templeton, Consul for Mexico.

Mr. Breen said that, as representatives of the Consular Corps at Glasgow, they had the honor to wait upon his Lordship in order to tender him their sincere congratulations upon his accession to the distinguished position of Lord Provost of that ancient burg. That honor had come to his Lordship after many years of most valuable services to the city, and while they congratulated him, they thought the citizens of Glasgow had very great reason to congratulate themselves upon having secured so efficient, so honorable, and so desirable an occupant of the civic chair. They had had on previous occasions the privilege of tendering their congratulations to his predecessors, but on no occasion had they had more confidence in prognosticating a successful civil reign than at the present time. The Consular Corps, as his Lordship was aware, was not an obtrusive body. They were a modest incorporation; but notwithstanding this fact their functions and duties were those which appertained to the trade and commerce of the great city of Glasgow with the different countries they had the honor to represent, and they could assure his Lordship that their desire was at all times and in all ways to encourage and foster that trade and commerce. The relations with the occupants of the civic chair had always been of the most cordial and satisfactory nature, and they had no reason to doubt this would continue during his Lordship's reign. He wished him, in the name of the Consular Corps, much health and happiness during his term of office, so that he might fulfill all his duties with entire satisfaction to himself and also to his fellow-citizens, as they had every reason to anticipate he would. (Applause.)

The Lord Provost, in reply, said he very highly appreciated the visit, coming as it did from such a body as the Consular Corps at Glasgow, which represented a great number of countries. It was very pleasing that in their public capacity they came to recognize the civic head of that great city. He was aware of the great responsibility of the high station in which he was placed, and he felt he would require all the strength, energy and thought he could bring to bear upon his duties to perform them satisfactorily. Following as he had done a long series of particularly able men, he felt that the citizens would possibly look for more than he was able to do, but he thought he would be able to look after the administrative affairs of the city of Glasgow. He might not, he feared, be such an ornamental man as some of the Lord Provosts who had preceded him, but he hoped from the knowledge he had gained of the work of the Town Council during many years, the duties so far as the internal management of municipal affairs were concerned, would be performed fairly to the satisfaction of the citizens. Very possibly during his term of office he might have occasion to require assistance from some of the members of the Consular Corps about matters which affected the countrymen they represented, and after that meeting he would feel more pleasure in obtaining it from them because they were anxious to help him.

The members of the Corps then withdrew.

CLEVELAND A MILLIONAIRE.

The purchase in New York of another house by President Cleveland, making three in all, recalls the recent speculation as to the size of his fortune. Men who handle money and possess the facilities for estimating wealth long ago agreed that the President is worth \$1,000,000, and he has even been rated at \$2,000,000.

The bulk of his fortune, all of which has been acquired through wise investments during the last 12 years, is believed to be in securities in railway and other enterprises.

His real estate holdings are said to be valued at least at \$300,000. This does not include his interest in a great tract of unimproved Long Island land which was recently purchased by a syndicate headed by William C. Whitney. The President is also credited with holding a big block of Metropolitan Traction Company securities.

Mr. Cleveland's private fortune when he became Governor 14 years ago was estimated at \$25,000.

LIFE IN BRAZIL UNDESIRABLE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4.—Consul Matthews, stationed at Para, writes that there is little or no chance for Americans in Brazil who have no capital. There are more applicants than positions, salaries are small, and living is most expensive. As to out-door labor, no white American exposed to the burning sun and daily rains could hope to escape yellow fever and perhaps death. To deal in rubber requires large capital, and American rubber gatherers would have but one chance in 10 for life; even among the natives the mortality is 50 per cent on some rivers.

In eight years 2516 fires have occurred in the United States which were attributed to lightning, and the damage to property thereby caused is estimated at about \$12,000,000.

NEW CONTRACTS

For Supplies to Be Sent to Leper Settlement.

MEETING OF BOARD OF HEALTH

Names of Firms Who Made Lowest Bids.

President Smith Reads Letter to Dr. McGrew Embodying Instructions to Mothers.

At a meeting of the Board of Health, held yesterday afternoon, there were present the following: President Smith, Drs. Emerson and Alvares, Messrs. Reynolds, Kellipio and Lansing.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

Inspector Kellipio's report showed 34,674 fish received at the Fish Market during the past week.

The bids for supplies to be sent to the Leper Settlement were read and the following awards were made:

Allen & Robinson: Rough N. W., tongue and groove, N. W., redwood battens, redwood shingles, redwood (surfaced), redwood fence posts, coal (D. B.) in sacks.

Lewers & Cooke: Doors, window sashes and cement.

Theo. H. Davies & Co.: White lead and turpentine.

H. Hackfeld & Co.: Iron bar nails, boiled oil, lime, galvanized iron pipe, rice, flour, salmon, rice (Hawaiian).

J. T. Waterhouse: Salt (coarse), baking powder, brooms (steamboat or mill), flour and onions.

H. May & Co.: Sugar (raw), matches (long card), coal (D. B.) in sacks, kerosene oil, middlings, potatoes (Island), pork (extra clear), sugar (No. 1 raw).

M. W. McChesney & Sons: Baking powder (Royal), bar soap, bran, salmon (best red), salt (coarse).

Lewis & Co.: Beans, coffee, tea, (China and Pouchong), tomatoes (in cans).

Love's Bakery: Bread (two contracts).

Waiata Ranch: Alagoba wood.

L. Andrade: Bread.

California Feed Company: Oats.

Metropolitan Meat Company: Beef (rump and round), beefsteak.

Union Feed Company: Hay and bran.

F. F. Porter: Hides and tallow.

President Smith read the following letter to Dr. John McGrew, President of the Medical Society of Hawaii, embodying the following directions to mothers for the care of infants, drafted by the committee appointed by the society:

DIRECTIONS TO MOTHERS FOR THE CARE OF SORE EYES IN THE NEW BORN.
(Recommended by the Medical Society of Hawaii.)

More care and attention should be given by mothers and others who have the care of the babe to the cleansing of the baby's eyes at the time of birth, as the majority of the blind are so from childhood as a result of sore eyes contracted when from 2 days to 2 weeks of age.

The sore eyes of infants are caused by the eyes becoming poisoned with the discharge at the time of birth and careless cleaning after birth.

When a baby's eyes get the least sore, consult a physician at once, or, if you are not within reach of one at the time, cleanse the eyes with cold water, being careful, if only one eye is affected, not to allow anything that has been near the sore eye to come in contact with the well one, as the disease is very contagious.

If you are where you cannot have a doctor see the baby's eyes every day or so, then you must wash the eyes out yourself thoroughly with cold, strong tea or salt and water (one small teaspoonful of salt to a pint of cold water) every two to four hours, or often enough to keep all the matter washed away. These washings must be kept up as long as there is the slightest discharge.

Method of Washing: Place the baby on your lap with his head between your knees, gently open the eyelids with the forefinger and thumb of the left hand, and with the other apply the wash by saturating a small, soft cloth or piece of cotton with the solution and letting it run from this into the eye until all the matter has been removed.

If the eyelids swell much, apply cold cloths, if possible, to the eyes, changing them for fresh ones as soon as they become warmed. Continue one or two hours, then let the eye rest for an hour or so, and repeat the process until the swelling subsides.

President Smith thanked the reporters for the help given the public and the Board of Health by the reports in the papers during the last year.

Daily Pacific Commercial Advertiser, 75 cents a month, delivered by carrier.